EDUCATION (IRELAND).

The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, to His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, for the Year ending 25 March 1845.

(*Pursuant to Act of Parliament*, 53 *Geo.* 3, *c.* 107, *s.* 8.)

TO HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM BARON HEYTESBURY,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereunto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a general Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

The duties of the Commissioners in regard to the different Schools of public and private endowment in connexion with the Board, being chiefly that of supervision, and totally unconnected with the right or the responsibility of, in any instance, appointing either masters or assistants, in a great degree circumscribes any Annual Report of the general proceedings of the Board.

The procuring from the masters reports of the course of instruction given in each School; the time so occupied by the teachers; the books employed; the keeping in a state of good and substantial repair such of the various School-houses as we are enabled to uphold with the funds committed to our care for that purpose; the management of the different estates vested in us; and the endeavour to increase the comfort and improve the condition of their respective tenantries,—though of a nature too minute to supply materials for a general Report, have occupied much of our time and attention.

In conformity with resolutions passed by the Board some years ago, and which we have reason to believe have been attended with very beneficial effects; and acting on a Report made to us by a Court of Examiners, we have selected to fill Royal Scholarships in the University the following students, who had received their elementary education at the Royal Schools:

Armagh.

S. Gibson to a Royal Scholarship of 50 *l.* per annum for five years.

Dungannon.

E. C. Carroll to a Royal Scholarship of 30 *l.* per annum for five years.
H. M'Sorley promoted from 30 *l.* to 50 *l.* for two years.

Enniskillen.

T. Adamson to a Royal Scholarship of 50 *l.* per annum for five years.
J. A. Weir to a Royal Scholarship of 30 *l.* per annum for five years.

And we have to state to your Excellency, that in consequence of repeated applications to that effect made to us by the master of Cavan Royal School, we have founded in connexion with that establishment five Royal Scholarships, of the annual value of 25 *l.* each, tenable for five years.

At Enniskillen Royal School we have selected to fill the vacant foundation scholarships, the following pupils: John C. Weir and James Macartney.

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The School-houses of Enniskillen and Dungannon, on the enlargement of the former of which we found it necessary, some years ago, to expend a very considerable sum of money, are reported to us to be in a condition in every way suitable for the accommodation of the large number of pupils in attendance at them, as resident and as daily students.

On the School-houses of the other Royal Schools we have, from time to time, pursuant to the advice of our Architect, made such outlay as was necessary to keep them in good repair.

It has been stated to us that the roof of the entire building at Armagh Royal School is in such a condition, that it should be removed and a new one substituted. We have not, however, thought it right, at present, to do more than to cause temporary repairs to be made to the present roof.

Representations having been made to us that a small portion of the land attached to this School was required for the completion of the arrangements of the Poor Law Commissioners; and, at the same time, an offer of an equivalent having been made, we, on ascertaining that no injury to the School-ground, and a decided advantage to the public, would accrue from such an arrangement, felt it would be proper to accede to the proposition; and the exchange has accordingly taken place.

An application having been submitted to us for a contribution towards the expense of reducing Lough Neagh (on the borders of which the Dungannon School property is situated) to a permanent summer level; and it having been strongly urged upon us by some of the local gentry, as well as by our agent, that such a project, if carried into effect, would be productive of great advantage to our property, as well as beneficial to that part of the country, we felt that it was incumbent upon us to subscribe towards the attainment of so desirable an object.

And with a view to foster that improvement which, under the inspection and direction of a practical agriculturist located by us on the estate, is manifestly and steadily taking place, we have resolved upon granting to such tenants as shall be reported to us to be deserving of them, annual premiums of farming implements, according to the respective merits of the candidates.

We regret, however, to be obliged to state to your Excellency, that the agriculturist having been more than once lately fired at, we have thought it our duty to apply to Government for the establishment of a police force in that district, and have undertaken to build a barrack for their accommodation.

Feeling the advantage that must arise from a frequent supervision of the Enniskillen School estate, which is inhabited by a very numerous, and, in most instances, extremely poor population, we gladly accepted the offer of a member of this Board, whose property lies in that neighbourhood, to act as a local committee, and give occasional inspection to the property, and his advice and assistance to our agent.

We have also resolved upon appointing an agriculturist to reside upon, and instruct the tenants of this estate in an improved mode of husbandry.

The condition of the Raphoe Royal School estate, which has lately fallen into our hands by the expiration of the lease, has, we regret to state to your Excellency, been to us attended with much expense and anxiety. The tenants having thought proper to dispute the title of the Commissioners, we were obliged to proceed by ejectment against the entire: having, however, previously to the late assizes of Donegal, obtained a consent for judgment from the defendants, we hope that by the exertions of our agent in carrying out our views for the improvement of the estate and the amelioration of the tenantry, and the assistance of a body of police, which a meeting of the magistrates, summoned and presided over by the Lieutenant of the county, memorialled the Government should be established in that locality, insubordination may be suppressed, the authority of the Board established, and the condition of the tenantry ultimately improved.

Amongst the schools of private foundation, those of Kilkenny, Carrickmacross, Bandon, and Clonmel, continue to be the most numerously attended.

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That of Middleton, heretofore enjoying so high a public reputation, appears, judging from the great diminution of the number of pupils, to have fallen in estimation, and we have not been called upon to adjudicate to any pupils from this School the usual annual prizes founded by us for students entering the University from this foundation: we have, however, in consequence of distinguished merit in his academic course, granted an additional prize to E. Sullivan, formerly educated at this School.

The School-house at Navan, an establishment of private foundation, has, under the particular superintendence and direction of a member of this Board, been improved and repaired by us at a considerable expense; and that proportion of the profits of the estate forming this endowment to which the King's Hospital is entitled, has been paid over by us to that body.

The School of Lifford, at which, as stated by us in a former Report, we felt it necessary to hold a visitation for the purpose of investigating a complaint, is now, we have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency, very numerously attended by the poorer classes for whose benefit it was intended, and is in a condition satisfactory to its patron and supporter.

The Diocesan School of Tuam, which had for some years ceased to exist, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring a suitable house, having been, on the memorial of certain inhabitants of that neighbourhood, and recommendation of the Bishop, restored by your Excellency; in the appointment of a master, we have, with a view to diminishing the expense of his renting a house, resolved to grant to him the annual dividends arising from a sum of money produced by the sale of the wreck of the old School-house.

The Diocesan Schools of Derry, Limerick, and Ferns, are numerously attended both by boarders and by daily students. But considerable difficulty exists as to keeping in repair the School-houses of the different Diocesan and district Diocesan Schools, there being no funds under our control for such purposes, and there existing on the part of the grand juries a great indisposition to present any sums of money for such objects.

We have further to state to your Excellency, that since our last Report, we have paid to the credit of Government the sum of 77*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* and the sum of 240*l.*, being the annual instalments payable for advances made out of the Consolidated Fund for the purpose of repairing Raphoe School-house, and building that of Clonmel.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) CHARLES KILDARE. (L. S.)
FRANC. SADLEIR. (L. S.)
JAMES WILSON. (L. S.)
C. R. ELRINGTON. (L. S.)
EDWARD MEATH. (L. S.)
F. BLACKBURN. (L. S.)
L. PERRIN. (L. S.)
RD. DUBLIN. (L. S.)
J. G. PORTER. (L. S.)

20 May 1845.

Wm. Cotter Kyle, LL.D.,
Secretary.

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